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BEFORE THE
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

In the Matter of)
)
Requests for Waiver of the)
Commission's Requirements in)
CC Docket No. 96-128)
(Payphone Compensation)) CC Docket No. 96-128

REPLY COMMENTS OF
THE SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND TELEPHONE COMPANY
ON PETITIONS FOR WAIVER

The Southern New England Telephone (SNET) Company submits these reply comments on issues raised in the Petitions for Waiver of the Commission's Requirements in CC Docket No. 96-128 for Payphone Compensation. SNET urges the Commission to clarify LECs' obligations imposed on provisioning payphone-specific coding requirements. It is very evident from the contradictory comments that there is significant confusion to warrant a thorough review of these requests as there is significant investment associated with the technologies being discussed. SNET agrees with USTA in that one technological solution to meet the local exchange carriers' (LECs) obligation is not necessary. LECs should be permitted to use different technologies that comply with the Commission's requirements to enable interexchange carriers (IXCs) to track payphone calls for compensation purposes. LIDB OLNS is being deployed at SNET and is sufficient to meet the per-call tracking obligations of IXCs.

- I. IT WAS ENTIRELY REASONABLE FOR SNET TO ASSUME LIDB OLNS WOULD MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF CC DOCKET NO. 96-128.

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The Commission has relied on the interpretation of Paragraph 64 in the Payphone Reconsideration Order¹ for its determination on the coding digits required for payphone compensation purposes.

"Once per-call compensation becomes effect, we clarify that, to be eligible for such compensation, payphones will be required to transmit specific payphone coding digits as a part of their ANI, which will assist in identifying them to compensation payors. Each payphone must transmit coding digits that specifically identify it as a payphone, and not merely as a restricted line."²

SNET agrees with TDS Telecommunications Corporation (TDS) that the language in this paragraph is far from definitive as to the exact payphone-specific coding digit requirements. SNET also agrees with TDS that "payphones themselves do not transmit ANI; it is the LEC's central office that provides this information."³

As SNET commented, its solution to comply with the Commission's requirement of identifying privately-owned payphones and aggregator locations was implementation of LIDB OLNS.⁴ SNET agrees with TDS that "the required call coding could be implemented fastest and at the lowest cost through the use of the Line Information Data Base (LIDB) method."⁵ U S West⁶ and

¹ Order on Reconsideration, Implementation of the Pay Telephone Reclassification and Compensation Provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, CC Docket No. 96-128, released November 8, 1996, p. 33.

² Id.

³ TDS Comments, p. 3.

⁴ SNET Comments, p. 3.

⁵ TDS Comments, p. 2.

⁶ U S West Comments, p. 2.

Illuminet⁷ also indicated in their Comments that LIDB OLNS was the most economic means of complying with the Commission's requirements in CC Docket No. 91-35. If the Commission determines that further clarification of the coding requirements is necessary and that LIDB OLNS may not meet the coding requirements for payphone compensation purposes, SNET should be immediately relieved of its deadline to provide LIDB OLNS for toll fraud purposes, as required in CC Docket No. 91-35,⁸ so that it can avoid expending any unnecessary expenses for LIDB OLNS.

The contrary interexchange carrier (IXC) interpretation - that the Commission completely reversed its own earlier conclusion in CC Docket No. 91-35, without seeking comments and without the intention of developing an appropriate record balancing the costs and benefits of a Flex ANI requirement seems not only unreasonable but inconceivable. SNET urges the Commission to clarify its requirements to resolve this dilemma of controversial views.

⁷ Illuminet, Inc. Comments, p. 2.

⁸ Third Report and Order, Policies and Rules Concerning Operator Service Access and Pay Telephone Compensation, CC Docket No. 91-35, April 5, 1996.

II. CONTRARY TO THE ASSERTIONS OF MCI, LIDB OLNS IS NOT AN INFERIOR OR OUTDATED TECHNOLOGY RELATIVE TO Flex ANI.

LIDB OLNS offers IXCs the real time provision of ANI digits as they demand. Therefore, the Commission should ignore MCI's unsubstantiated claim that there is a time delay. LIDB OLNS works with equal access and non-equal access offices.

For SNET and many LECs, LIDB OLNS is clearly less expensive than Flex ANI while providing the necessary coding information. As American Public Communications Council (APCC) points out, a higher payphone provider cost is likely to simply be passed to IXCs.⁹ Ultimately, it will be end users' charges that will be impacted. Moreover, contrary again to MCI assertions, IXCs are not compelled to use LIDB OLNS for payphone compensation purposes to verify all calls generating an "07" indicator. As APCC explains, they are free to develop their own database to verify payphone generated calls. The cost of both payphone and non-payphone "07" queries would be assessed to the payphone provider. This assessment in total would still be less than deploying Flex ANI. Any additional expenditure imposed on LECs beyond what is already meeting the Commission's requirement clearly is not in the public interest.

SNET again agrees with APCC that clarification is needed from the Commission¹⁰ and the following questions need to be addressed:

⁹ APCC Comments, p. 20.

¹⁰ APCC Comments, p. 14.

1) What technologies are sufficient to meet the Commission's expectations?

2) If Flex ANI is mandated, what codes must be forwarded? IXCs needing Flex ANI purely for payphone purposes have no need for anything but a coin vs. non-coin identifier.

3) If LECs must provide Flex ANI with multiple coin identifiers (e.g., "29, 27, 70"), who will pay for the service? Is it reasonable to assess all Flex ANI costs to payphone providers?

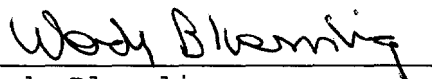
4) If LECs must provide Flex ANI with multiple coin identifiers and "trust" IXCs to use it only for payphone purposes based on their signed statements, it should be clarified that the IXC signing such a statement is doing so representing not only its own traffic and purposes, but also the traffic and purposes of any carriers to whom it resells the service. SNET may not have any business relationship with the carrier buying resold service from the primary IXC. LECs and PSPs should be assured that any ANI information provided at no charge to IXCs is solely for payphone compensation purposes.

IV. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, SNET agrees with USTA that LECs, like SNET, should be permitted to use their own coding-specific information and judgment in selecting the underlying technology to provide information that will permit IXCs to track payphone calls for compensation purposes. SNET also supports the LEC ANI Coalition that the deadline for compliance be extended until the Commission issues an order providing clarification of the LECs' payphone specific coding requirements.

Respectfully submitted,

THE SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND
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November 6, 1997

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Barbara C. Majeski, hereby certify that SNET's Reply
Comments for Petitions of Waiver of Payphone Coding Digits
Requirements, has been filed this 6th day of November, 1997, and
hand delivered to the indicated parties listed below.


Barbara C. Majeski

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